

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HOLT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SCHOCK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHOCK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROUN of Georgia addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. FOXX addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. FLEMING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLEMING addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RUSH TO JUDGMENT ON STIMULUS BILL VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your indulgence this afternoon.

Earlier this afternoon, this House passed the single largest spending bill that has ever come across the work activity of this body. There was tepid applause on the other side of the aisle for the passage of this bill, I think in recognition that none of us really know if it will work. Most of us on our side of the aisle don't believe it will work, believe it was the wrong issue to do, the wrong way to address a very serious issue.

Americans all across this country are suffering: people losing their jobs, losing their homes, struggling to make ends meet. All of the things that go on during a recession. These are serious times.

My colleagues have been up here all day stating over and over ad nauseam

the lack of consideration given to our ideas on how we could have made this better, the overall lack of consideration considering the substantial size of this particular bill that was given over the last 2 weeks. You hate to use a phrase that's been worn out, but "rush to judgment" comes to mind when you look at the activity that went on.

This House voted earlier this week—it was a unanimous vote—which doesn't happen except on post office namings—a unanimous vote that we would have 48 hours to look at this bill, that our constituents would have 48 hours to look at this bill, that America would have a chance to see what we were voting on, and that was unanimous.

And, Mr. Speaker, it's totally within your prerogatives as to when things come to the House. That's one of the wonderful things about being Speaker, and it is great to be Speaker. But I'm disappointed that you didn't honor the wishes, the unanimous wishes of 403 of us, that thought we needed 48 hours to look at this bill.

□ 1530

The real losers in this bill—and there are lots of losers—but the real losers in this bill are our future children, future generations of Americans who will be forever saddled with the debt that is going to be borrowed to pay for this bill. Tucked away in the corner of one of these bills is an increase in the debt limit to \$12 trillion. That debt will never get paid back.

I had an interesting exchange with a young fifth grader in Fredericksburg, Texas, last October who asked me the single best question I've ever been asked during a town hall meeting. He said, Mr. Congressman, what's the plan to pay off the national debt? And I was rocked back on my heels because I had never been asked anything that straightforward important, and I had to say, well, young man, there is no plan to pay off the national debt. The money we borrow today is permanent debt. In order to pay debt off, you have to run a surplus. This Federal Government rarely ever runs a surplus, certainly never to the tune of \$12 trillion.

And so future generations will be paying interest not only on this \$800 billion but also the \$12 trillion that we've accumulated—and there's plenty of blame to go around for that—for the rest of their lives and the lives of their children and the lives of their children because this debt will not get paid off.

It is a sad day, Mr. Speaker, for the taxpayers and future generations of taxpayers that my generation, the one just ahead of me and the one just behind me, believe in our core that it is an appropriate way to address problems that we're having by taking money that we haven't earned, that has not even yet been earned by our grandkids and working on problems that we need to solve that are important to us. If the problems are impor-

tant enough that we need to spend money on them, then we clearly ought to be spending our own money on them and not future generations of Americans.

So, Mr. Speaker, just before I yield back, I appreciate the time. I just wanted to express how disappointed I am in the action of the House today in passing a monster of a bill that does not address the jobs that it was supposed to. It simply spends more money and is a legacy, generates higher spending on an annual year-after-year basis because of some of the floors that we've put under many of these problems that we couldn't afford before we did this, and we simply can't afford on a going-forward basis as well.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO U.S. GROUP OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 1928a, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Member of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly:

Mr. TANNER, Tennessee, Chairman

THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it's a pleasure to have the hour—I probably won't take a full hour—but to have the opportunity to speak to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle and, in particular, follow my colleague from Texas, the gentleman who just spoke, the words of wisdom that he expressed, the gentleman, Mr. CONAWAY, who is a certified public accountant, as he described the problems with this bill that was passed on the floor today, Mr. Speaker, and no doubt will be passed by the Senate tomorrow and probably signed into law by President Obama on Monday.

The thing that I want to express, and I think that Mr. CONAWAY and some other speakers on our side of the aisle said as they spoke about this bill, was not that we on the Republican side are opposed to doing something. I mean, we don't want to just do nothing. Although, Mr. Speaker, I firmly believe that doing nothing would be better than the harm that's likely to be inflicted on our economy and, as Mr. CONAWAY said, on our children and grandchildren by the enactment of this legislation where we're spending almost \$1.2 trillion when you include the interest on the debt, that putting that burden on the backs of our future generations without an absolute assurance, without an absolute assurance, Mr. Speaker, that those 4 million jobs would be created and that this would